

Comments on the Draft LCGCC Report submitted by Robert Slocum – March 22, 2010

General Comments

I disagree with the overriding premise that climate change is primarily driven by human actions through the release of carbon dioxide. At best, the science remains unsettled and there is no convincing proof that CO₂ has caused, or will cause, significant changes in global climate. There is no “scientific consensus” that supports such a view. Human induced global warming is an unproven computer theory. And the more research that is done, the more uncertain this theory becomes. **I request and recommend that the final report acknowledge that some members of the Commission held this view.** I also request that the February 5th letter to Commission that I, along with others signed, be made part of the final report.

Page 9, “Need for State Actions

I recommend this entire section be deleted. There is no question that the climate is changing. It always has and always will, regardless of the actions of man. I disagree that “climate change is a global problem” and don’t believe that any actions - be they state, regional, national or global - will have any significant impact on changes in the climate. I certainly don’t believe that the State should take any actions beyond what is already in place.

Page 12, How to Interpret the Commission’s Actions on this Report

I recommend that the first sentence be removed. I do not endorse the need to take any further state actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. However, there may be actions related to adaptation that do make sense, both economically and environmentally.

Page 37, Findings

While I recognize that the Commission did adopt the 3 “Findings” listed, there has been much research and other information released since then that brings into serious question the role of humans in climate change. Everyone accepts that the climate is continually changing. This happens regardless of human actions. At best, Finding #2 should be changed to read, “***Finding 2: Human activity may be a factor in that change.***” Finding #3 is unnecessary and should be removed.

Findings related to the science of climate change

I recommend the following:

Based on the most recent research and information, there is no clear scientific agreement on the role of humans and the release of carbon dioxide in changes in global climate. While there is agreement global temperatures have increased slightly, there has been no significant warming in the last 15 years, despite a continuing rise in CO₂ levels. While this may not disprove the theory of human induced climate change, it certainly demonstrates that the climate is more complex than current science can understand.

Recommendations for Future Consideration

This section should clearly reflect that it represents a hodgepodge of recommendations from all Commission members and that they have not been discussed or voted on

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individually. Thus there is no unanimity of support or agreement for any or all of these recommendations.

Legislative Proposals

I do not support any of the proposed legislative actions. If this list is included in the report, it should be made clear that there was not unanimous agreement that any of these proposals should move forward. Again, I reference the February 5th letter to the Commission stating that the signatories do not believe that any further actions beyond what the State has currently done are warranted.